

### The Source of Brother Spanogle's Joy.

Another Christmas has passed and your humble servant is happy. Why so specially happy? Well, first because of the religious liberty we enjoy, and for the realization of pleasures the day afforded us. Secondly, because of the very extreme plethoric condition of our larder. Yes, brother Editor I would like this morning to compare larders with you. These same old friends who have the comforts of the preacher at heart, of whom we spoke last year, again invaded our home on the day before Christmas and placed in our study their bountiful offerings. A very neat little presentation speech was made by brother Dr. Wengert and brother Wineland. Brethren and sisters and friends, accept the heartfelt thanks of your unworthy servant, and may God bless you all. On Christmas day we held our church meeting, at which, upon application of Brother J. W. Smouse to become identified officially with the church of the Brethren, and of whom things have been written and said reflecting to some extent upon his character as a minister and a gentleman. The church investigated the matter, the result of which was the unanimous acceptance of brother and sister J. W. Smouse as members of the Brethren church, and may Brother S. adorn his high and holy profession with an upright walk and a chaste conversation, are the prayers of the church. At that church meeting we also started the "ball rolling" in the path of a new church house in Martinsburg. How far it may roll we are not quite able to say, but we are hopeful of practical results, and as your humble servant has been appointed solicitor, the following is our plan of operations: The church has placed the minimum amount of subscription at \$2,000, and no subscriptions are payable until the amount is subscribed. We want to make a certainty, and now that the church at large may not think we are selfish or exclusive, our solicitations are universal; and whenever we have the \$2,000 subscribed we will give notice through the Evangelist, and thus avoid the extreme overflow that might occur. Think a little about us brethren.

Yours in hope of success,  
WILL L. SPANOGLE.  
Martinsburg, Dec. 26, 1884.

### From the Field.

I made a trip to Virginia lately, and did some evangelistic work in Rockingham county, from the 15th of November to the 22nd of December. We held meetings at five different places, and for the most part had fair congregations and good attention excepting when it rained, which was a good portion of the time from the 20th of November. We were rained out four Sundays out of the six while I was there. During the summer and autumn it was very dry there, but when the weather changed it made up for the drought.

The brethren in Virginia are very kind and warm-hearted and will make one feel at home. The ingathering was not very large during our meetings in the valley, but we did not expect very much of a harvest when we found that we were right in the field that brother Bashor had reaped last spring. True when the weather kept favorable a few days in succession, the congregations were large and the interest deep enough to betoken an almost immediate outpouring. Nine were added to the church, and three more made application for membership while we were there.

On the 2nd of December the Brethren met at Scott's Ford and organized by electing Peter Hartman deacon, and choosing Joseph Bowman elder, and appointing a secretary and treasurer. An appointment was made to do a work of this kind on the 6th of December, at Mt. Olive, but it rained so that the church could not meet. The appointment was renewed, and on the 20th the Brethren met and elected Isaac D. Bowman, deacon, and chose Joseph Bowman to be their Elder, and also chose a secretary and treasurer. Although the Brethren in Virginia have had their hours of temptation and trials, they, as a body, are hopeful. The prospects for churches in Virginia are bright.

For reasons not necessary to mention here, I stopped with brother E. B. Shaver at his home, on my return, and spent some hours in busy conversation with him. He told me all about their church troubles, and the church trials, and especially the result of his last trial. The proposition that he made at the last trial, which to his surprise was accepted, and which I copied from the church book, I give by his consent for publication, verbatim, to wit:

"We agree that we will not enforce forms and customs upon our members, and that in the future those of whom a trouble grew out of shall have our fellowship and membership without further trouble, and that E. B. Shaver agrees not to leave his congregation and preach for an organized body of Progressives."

The "trouble" alluded to above grew out of eight members who united with the church in brother Shaver's congregation when brother Bashor preached there. Bashor planted, Shaver watered, and God gave the increase, but those members did not conform to the "order" of the church. God failed to prescribe any certain style of dress, Bashor failed to preach it, and Shaver failed to baptize them into it. Hence the trouble. They don't uniform and Shaver will not help to expel them, but says they shall have his fellowship and membership. Brother Shaver, too, was accused of bringing trouble on the general church by going to Ohio and preaching for the Brethren. This he has in the foregoing agreement obligated himself not to do again. That is, he agrees not to preach for an "organized" body of Progressives. This does not deny him the right to preach to isolated brethren, neither (as he said himself,) will it hinder him from having the Brethren to preach in his church. Brother Shaver recently received a letter from brother Sharp, who claims that, logically, the German Baptist church now has no minutes of annual meeting, that their refusal to adopt the revised minutes, virtually does away with all. Well, supposing it does, what then becomes of the famous name German Baptist, adopted by annual meeting in the year of 1836 if the minutes are more to be regarded? Then the church called German Baptist since the year 1836, now has no name and hence is not an orthodox church and has therefore no right to baptize or solemnize marriages.

According to their own claims, the baptism administered by them since last annual meeting is not valid (their administrators having, by abandoning the minutes, left the church organized in the Spring of 1836 with the name that was then adopted). Where is the good old German Baptist church now? According to Sharp's logic, where is their name? Where is their church government, if it be true that the minutes are, since last annual meeting, obsolete? Had not the conservatives better call a convention and adopt some suitable name, or readopt the one adopted in the year 1836, procure a charter and put themselves on record as an evangelical church, whose baptism will be valid, and whose marriages will be legal. J. H. SWIHART.

### The News.

The saddlery of the firm of Elbel, Gilliam & Co., Canton, Ohio, was destroyed by fire on the 28th of Dec. Loss, \$200,000.

The closing of mines in the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, has thrown two thousand men out of employment. Indianapolis has had a \$200,000 fire.

The World's Exposition, at New Orleans is only tolerably well attended.

A package of dynamite was found on the railroad track near Edon, Pa., which, but for timely discovery, would have resulted in a terrible catastrophe.

General Grant's property, real and personal, has been levied upon to satisfy the claims of Vanderbilt for \$150,000. General Sherman and Cyrus Field will likely lift the debt. Vanderbilt himself offering to lose \$50,000.

Six hundred men were thrown out of employment by the closing of the works of the Keystone Bridge Co., at Pittsburg, on Dec. 27th.

California is having rain, and fruit and grape growers are happy.

Congress took a holiday recess.

A fire in Cincinnati destroyed a Masonic temple that cost \$200,000.

Gen. B. F. Butler has signed a contract to furnish a New York publishing house a book in two volumes, on his political reminiscences.

The Mackey-Bennett Cable was opened on Christmas. It connects New York and London direct, which no other cable does.

The farmers of Huntingdon county, Pa., have declared against the use of commercial fertilizer, claiming that it induces hog cholera, and subjects those who handle it to serious derangement of the system.

A message has been sent from Wall Street to the Royal Exchange in London, and an answer returned within forty seconds, the distance covered being over 8,000 miles.

Ex-Senator Blair, of New Hampshire, has succeeded in introducing into the United States Senate a bill for an investigation of the liquor traffic. The committee will be composed of members of both political parties, and they are to serve without a salary. They are to investigate and inquire into the relations of the traffic to revenue and taxation, and its general economic, criminal, moral and scientific aspects, in connection with pauperism, crime, social vice, the public health, and general welfare of the people; and also to inquire as to the practical results of license and prohibitory legislation for the prevention of temperance in the several States. We hope this bill will pass and the light of day be made to penetrate upon this demon of darkness.

An Iowa conductor recently put a drunken man off the train, giving as his reason for doing so, "That the company had strict orders not to carry whiskey through the State in any kind of a package."

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1885. THE BRETHREN EVANGELIST. 1885.

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